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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1959



Urban District of Brentwood

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (as at 31.12.59.)

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. M. Smith (3)

J. S. Alderton	J. A. Isgrove	(1)
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(1) Member of the Health and Sewerage Committee.
(2) Chairman of the Health and Sewerage Committee.
(3) Vice-Chairman of the Health and Sewerage Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF (as at the 31.12.59.)

Medical Officer of Health:

T. Mackinnell-Childs, B.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

R. G. Newberry, M.B., B.S., Lond. D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. T. Shelton. M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Final Examination Chartered Auctioneers' and Estate Agents Institute.

First Additional Public Health Inspector:

E. A. Sheppard, M.A.P.H.I., C.R. San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I. Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector

Third Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. H. Gilkes, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate of the Royal Society of Health, Meat and Food Inspector

Clerk: Miss E. P. Turff

Part-time Clerk: Mrs. J. M. Smith

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Brentwood.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1959.

I have recently re-read some of the Reports presented by my predecessors. Dr. Samuel Fraser reporting upon the year 1901, at which time the population of Brentwood was 4,932, drew attention to the great demand for housing accommodation. The rapid and continuing increase in our population makes his comment of 60 odd years ago as apt today as doubtless it was then. Our population has to some extent outstripped the capacity of our Sewage Disposal Works, a state of affairs which I am happy to say is now being rectified.

In general, the vital statistics for the district continue to show the same small annual improvement as is a feature of the figures for England and Wales as a whole. Deaths from carcinoma of the lung and from tuberculosis both show a slight rise upon last years figures.

In looking back to earlier Reports I have been prompted to wonder what trends the future may have in store for us, especially in such matters as mental health, health education and clean air and food. I feel one especially useful function of the Annual Report is the opportunity that it offers for the past, present and future activities of the Department to be viewed as a whole.

I should like to pay tribute to the loyalty and activity of all members of the Public Health Department staff and in thanking the Members of the Council for their support and understanding I would like to make special mention of their kindness in enabling me to attend the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health's Conference at Harrogate.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. T. B. MACKINNELL-CHILDS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	18,166
Estimated (mid-year) Resident Population	46,270
(Registrar General's figures)	
Nettable Value	£573,217
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,241
Number of Inhabited Houses	13,132

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	378	355	733
Illegitimate	12	9	21
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	16.29
Area Comparability Factor ... ... ...	...	...	0.94
Corrected Birth Rate ... ... ...	...	...	15.31

able showing comparisons with England and Wales:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1959:

England and Wales	Brentwood	
	1959	1958
16.5	16.29	15.93

Still Births:	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births ...	...	...	... 9.28
Rate for England and Wales ...	...	...	20.70

Deaths:	M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths	254	276	530
Area Comparability Factor ... ... ...	...	...	... 0.82
Corrected Death Rate ... ... ...	...	...	... 9.39

able showing comparison with England and Wales:

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1959:

England and Wales	Brentwood	
	1959	1958
11.6	9.39	9.27

Infant Mortality Rate:	1959	England & Wales
All Infants per 1,000 live births	18.56	16.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	Nil
Neo Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.59	16.2
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	1	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	1.3	

CAUSES OF DEATH					
Infectious:					
Tuberculosis—Respiratory and other	...	...	...	...	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer:					
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	26
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	...	48
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	6
Heart and Circulation:					
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	64
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	81
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	96
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	22
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	5
Influenza, Pneumonia, and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	73
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	44
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	8
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2

530

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are comparative tables of infectious diseases:

	1959	1958
Scarlet Fever	32	21
Pneumonia	42	45
Poliomyelitis	3	2
Whooping Cough	25	12
Measles	756	42
Food Poisoning	1	2
Suspected Food Poisoning	2	—
Dysentery	1	6
Hepatitis	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—
Meningococcal infection	1	—
	870	130

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Year	Population	Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality : Rate per 1,000 live births
1954	34,670	459	13.37	405	10.51	19.61
1955	38,040	577	15.32	492	11.64	24.26
1956	41,030	656	14.32	482	9.64	18.29
1957	42,330	661	15.00	413	8.20	12.10
1958	44,170	749	15.93	488	9.27	9.34
1959	46,270	754	15.31	530	9.39	18.56

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25—44	45—64	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	1	5	18	6	—	1	—	—	32
Pneumonia	...	1	3	9	3	—	8	7	9	42
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
(non-paralytic)	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	...	3	3	5	13	—	—	1	—	25
Measles	...	17	125	162	415	29	7	1	—	756
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suspected Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5
Hepatitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	22	132	174	456	38	13	16	10	9	870

Influenza:

Early in the year we suffered, along with the rest of the country, a widespread outbreak of this disease. School children were the first to be affected in large numbers, the subsequent spread of the epidemic involving the pre-school child and adults in large numbers. Fortunately the illness was generally of a mild nature and few, if any, complications occurred.

Food Poisoning:

A sharp outbreak of food poisoning occurred in one of the schools. We were successful in tracing the causitive organism and the facts were promptly brought to the notice of those concerned.

Poliomyelitis:

We had three cases during the year of which two were paralytic and one non-paralytic. The relative absence of this disease must be to some extent the result of the vaccination campaign which has been carried on for the past four years. Whilst it is too soon to say with any scientific certainty the actual degree of protection afforded, it seems likely that it will prove to be considerable. In order to stimulate the acceptance rate two vaccination sessions were carried out at our largest local factory. Sessions are still being held on Saturday mornings in the hope that adults will find it easier to attend at that time rather than in the mid-week.

Measles:

As was to be expected, a large number of cases were notified during the year though no reports were received of any complications.

Whooping Cough:

We had 25 cases with no deaths.

Vaccination and Immunisation:

The following figures show the number of Brentwood children immunised or vaccinated in 1959. The figures for 1958 are also shown.

		1959	1958
Diphtheria Immunisation:			
	Primary	777	643
	Booster	216	357
Whooping Cough:			
	Primary	691	569
	Booster	21	29
Vaccination against Smallpox:			
	Vaccinated	765	629
	Re-vaccinated	224	160
B.C.G. Vaccination:			
	Tuberculin Tested	394	324
	No. received B.C.G	351	283

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Primary	...	4,062	6,924
Booster	...	7,820	583

B.C.G. Vaccination:

Vaccination was continued and extended. 68 more children were given B.C.G. than in the previous year.

Tuberculosis:

The following figures have been received from the Brentwood Chest Clinic relating to tuberculosis for the year 1959.

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.
Cases on register 1.1.59	199	161	16	9	16	8
New notifications	...	3	7	2	—	—
Transfers in	...	25	13	1	2	2
Died	...	5	1	—	—	—
Lost sight of	...	8	10	1	1	1
Recovered	...	17	9	—	1	1
Transferred out	...	11	8	—	1	1
Total removed from register	...	41	28	1	3	1
Cases on register 31.12.59	...	186	153	18	8	9

Tuberculosis After-Care Association:

Arrangements have now been made for certain selected cases of chronic bronchitis to receive benefits which have hitherto been limited to sufferers from tuberculosis.

Ambulance Services:

I give below details in regard to the work undertaken by the Brentwood Ambulance Station during 1959. I would mention that the Service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

Total number of patients conveyed	...	18,209
Stretcher cases	...	1,854
Sitting and walking cases	16,355	
Total mileage	...	112,867
Admissions to and discharges from hospital	...	1,227
Conveyed to and from clinic	14,788	
Total emergencies	...	1,174
Street accidents	...	220
Home accidents	...	88
Other accidents	...	101
Maternity	...	266
Other emergency	...	499

Brentwood Foot Clinic:

Number of Sessions	...	...	495
New Patients — Adults	...	...	155
	Children	...	78
Attendances — Adults	...	...	4,158
	Children	...	443

The figures shown above includes 54 children and 638 adults who were receiving treatment at the end of 1958 and were, therefore, carried forward into 1959.

The Mass Radiography Mobile Unit:

During the month of July the Mass X-ray Unit visited Brentwood. Details of the sessions etc., are given below:

	No. X-rayed on miniature film	No. recalled for full-size films	No. referred to Chest Clinic
Organised sessions	562	14	1
Older schoolchildren	696	9	—
Others	22	—	—
Public sessions	1,517	42	2
Total:	2,797	65	3

National Assistance Act, 1948:

There are no cases to report under this Act.

Water Supply:

There has been no change in the organisation of our water supplies during the year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

National Health Service Act, 1946—Local Health Authority Services Under Part III

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided by the South Essex Area Health Committee and held at the BRENTWOOD COMBINED TREATMENT CENTRE, 39 Queens Road, Brentwood.

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare	Monday afternoons, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Dental Inspection	Monday afternoons, 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination (Section 26)	First Monday afternoon in the month.
Minor Ailment (School Health Service)	Wednesday mornings.
Ophthalmic Clinic (School Health Service)	Thursdays only 9.30-10.30 a.m. or by appointment.
Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare (Section 22)	2nd, 4th, and 5th Fridays 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Dental Treatment	By appointment.
Chiropody	By appointment or Wednesday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Handicapped Children (Education Act, 1944) Ascertainment of Mentally and / or Physically handicapped children,	By appointment.

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided at the THREE ARCH BRIDGE ESTATE CLINIC, Maple Close, Brentwood.

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare (Nurse only) and Speech Therapy	Monday afternoons.
Minor Ailment	1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday mornings in month.
Child Welfare (Doctor in attendance)	Wednesday afternoons.
Immunisation	3rd Thursday in month.
Women's Welfare	2nd, 4th and 5th Friday mornings in month.
Vaccination against Poliomyelitis	By appointment.
Subsidiary Centres:	
Hutton Child Welfare (held at St. Peter's Church Hall)	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons in month.
Bentley Child Welfare (held at the Village Hall) Doctor in attendance	1st Thursday afternoon in month.
Health Visitor's Session	1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons in month.
West Horndon (held in the Canteen of Rotary Hoes Ltd.) for Immunisation	2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month.
Warley Child Welfare (held at the Warley Barracks) Health Visi- tor's Session	1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in month.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The following note upon our present programme of extension and improvement of these services has been drawn up by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department:

"The Council's programme for the reconstruction of the Shenfield and Hutton Sewage Disposal Works was commenced in May, 1959, and due to the fine summer weather rapid progress has been made on the construction work since that date.

The major problem encountered during the construction has been to ensure that purification of the effluent is maintained at all times

as, due to the small flow in the receiving stream, any reduction in purification has an immediate adverse effect on the watercourse.

The programme of construction has, therefore, been carried out in stages, so that the flow can be diverted into new units for treatment in sequence. This has to some extent limited the speed of construction and has necessitated the preparation of a careful programme and close liaison with the Contractors.

The working conditions during the winter months have been difficult, but continuous progress has, however, been maintained, and works to the value of approximately £150,000 have been carried out.

Most of the specialist equipment, including mechanical scrapers, pumping equipment and sludge digestion plant have been manufactured and delivered to the site for incorporating in the works. The erection of the mechanical plant will be carried out by specialist contractors at a later stage in the contract.

Due to the proximity of the river, difficulties have always been experienced in the disposal and drying of the sludge, and this scheme incorporates a new plant for the mechanical dewatering and heating of the material, in order to assist the drying operations. This part of the scheme will be undertaken at a later stage of the works.

The construction work described for the Shenfield scheme has limited the volume of work carried out on the preparation of the scheme for the extension to the Lapwater Hall Sewage Disposal Works. The contract drawings, however, for this scheme are in course of preparation and it is hoped that progress will be made in the forthcoming months in the preparation of the necessary contract documents to enable this scheme to proceed."

Clean Air Act, 1956:

One area, involving some 350 houses, has now been approved as a smoke control area and the operation of this comes into force as from 1st May, 1960. As very few fires are likely to be lit during the summer months it is not yet possible to comment on the working of the Order.

A further area involving finally some 465 dwellings was suggested in 1959 as an extension of the 350 houses already concerned. This is expected to be approved during 1960 and thus over 800 houses in the Hutton area will become smoke controlled.

It is hoped to pursue a policy of making newly developed areas smoke controlled from the outset and gradually, over a period of years, to extend the operation of the Act to areas with a preponderance of older houses.

Health Education and Home Safety:

This generally acknowledged most important function of the Public Health Department whilst being simple enough in theory is in practice difficult to establish and conduct.

The information given to the general public should be simple to understand, up to date and consistent. A number of ingenious tech-

niques are available but they are mostly based on some knowledge of teaching and unfortunately Doctors are not teachers and vice versa.

In an endeavour to bring before the public facts and figures relating to accidents in the home, a Committee has been formed to direct and stimulate interest and information relating to these all too common accidents. So far this recently formed Committee has purchased and distributed over two hundred posters and several hundred "Check that Fall" Campaign Quiz Cards were completed by the elderly folk. A small display was held at 117 High Street, Brentwood during November.

Housing:

There still remain a number of unfit houses of first priority for demolition or closure.

The stagnation is due to lack of accommodation into which the occupants could be moved.

It seems hardly practical to proceed with the ascertainment of second priority properties until the first group has been satisfactorily dealt with, and it is to be hoped that the current year will see some improvement in this situation.

Overcrowding:

There was one case of Statutory overcrowding which was dealt with satisfactorily.

Hospital Services in the Area:

The following is a report from the Group Secretary of the Brentwood Group No. 16 Hospital Management Committee:

High Wood Hospital:

The tuberculous children were transferred to Black Notley Hospital in October last, and since then the use of the hospital has changed.

The hospital is to be developed as a Geriatric Hospital with full services. At present there are two Ward Blocks for Geriatrics, one for adult tuberculosis, men and women, a Ward for E.N.T. patients, another as a Varicose Vein Unit, and a Department for ancillary services, i.e. Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

In addition Clinics are held weekly by an Orthoptist and a Audiometrist.

The Brentwood Chest Clinic also remains at High Wood Hospital and adaptations are to be made to the premises which should greatly improve the arrangement for the patients.

Brentwood District Hospital:

The services at the Brentwood District Hospital have been improved and extended by the appointment of a second Consultant Physician, a weekly session instead of fortnightly for a Consultant in Physical Medicine, additional weekly session for the Orthopaedic Surgeon, the appointment of Registrars in E.N.T. and Orthopaedic Surgery for the Group with duty at the Hospital.

Separate departments have been made of the Out-Patient Department and the Operating Theatre instead of one hitherto.

The number of beds have increased from 50 to 62 (8 women and 4 men).

Co-operation of the Hospital Group services has been developed in the extension of the appointment of Consultants for Harold Wood Hospital to include the Brentwood District Hospital.

St. Faith's Hospital:

The development of St. Faith's Hospital is under consideration by the Regional Hospital Board and an Epileptic Working Party has been appointed to deal with this.

SECTION B

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspection of Area:		Inspec-tions	Re-inspec-tions
Housing Acts, 1936-1957 (Demolition or Closure)	... ... ...	26	143
Housing Act, 1957. Sec. 9 (Repair of Housing Defects)	... ... ...	29	389
Public Health Act, 1936 (Remedy of Sanitary Defects)	... ... ...	117	451
Housing Acts—Improvement grants	...	73	365
Housing Acts—Standard Grants	...	1	2
Rent Act, 1957 (Re application for Certificates of Disrepair)	... ... ...	14	32
Housing Act (Overcrowding)	... ... ...	6	2
Public Health Act (General)	... ... ...	255	168
Infectious Diseases	... ... ...	45	17
Food Poisoning Investigation	... ... ...	5	5
Verminous Premises	... ... ...	3	—
Dirty Premises	... ... ...	5	2
Water Supplies	... ... ...	57	25
Drainage and Sewerage	... ... ...	197	213
Cesspools and Pail Closets	... ... ...	39	58
Ponds, Ditches, etc.	... ... ...	67	65
Keeping of swine, fowl, etc.	... ... ...	22	5
Accumulation of Refuse	... ... ...	16	18
Refuse Tips	... ... ...	146	—
Rats and Mice (General)	... ... ...	191	414
Rats and Mice (Sewer baiting)	... ... ...	102	25
Factories (Power)	... ... ...	140	17
Factories (Non-Power)	... ... ...	9	1
Outworkers	... ... ...	33	—
Shops Act	... ... ...	23	—
Hairdressers Premises	... ... ...	2	—
Massage Establishments	... ... ...	17	—

Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Licensed Premises—Sanitary accommoda-							
tion	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	62	422	
Swimming Bath Visits	...	...	...	...	17	—	
Swimming Bath Samples	...	...	...	...	19	—	
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	366	2	
Miscellaneous Interviews	...	...	...	...	30	—	
Clean Air Act, 1956	...	...	...	...	132	—	
Smoke Observation	...	...	...	...	10	—	
School Sanitary and Washing Facilities	...	...	...	...	18	4	
Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	15	—	
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	6	2	
Agriculture (Welfare Provisions Act, 1956)	...	...	...	...	2	—	
Mosquito Control (Spraying of Ponds)	...	...	...	...	40	—	
					2,364	2,848	
Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	...		568	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

The inspection of food premises and the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/56, continued to require a good deal of inspectorial time during the course of the year. The presence of another Inspector in the Department has enabled the number of visits to be considerably increased, but the work generally was rewarding and good co-operation was maintained with the trade.

Every effort is made to inspect new food premises as soon as possible after their opening, and the requirements of the Department are made clear from the outset. The district, of course, continued to grow and the number of new food shops begins to outpace the older types of premises in the area. Modernisation of many of the older premises is encouraged as a direct result of this and it is felt generally that the standard in the district is gradually being improved. Experience shows, however, that it is never possible to be complacent as to food hygiene standards, and continual routine inspections must be made to ensure that satisfactory standards are maintained.

Food inspection:	Number of visits made:					
Slaughterhouses	192
Knacker's Yards	3
Meat Shops	114
Fried Fish Shops	32
Other Food Shops	341
Cafes	113
Licensed Premises	103
Ice-cream Premises	97
Dairies and Milk Shops	56
Bakehouses	51

Food Vans	...	...	...	...	...	10
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	8
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	...	...	3
Canteens—Schools	...	...	...	...	...	61
Canteens—Factories	...	...	...	...	...	14
Canteens—Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	22
Samples—Milk	...	...	...	...	...	49
Samples—Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	48
Samples—Water	...	...	...	...	...	10
						1,327

Milk Supplies:

The bulk of supplies in the district continued to be obtained by local dairymen from outside the area. All premises where the primary business is the storage and sale of milk are treated as dairies for the purpose of this report. During the year occasional complaints of dirty bottles reached this Department, and after these cases were reported to the Council's Public Health Committee, warning letters were sent to the firms concerned. It is understood that experiments are continually being made to deal with the problem of picking out dirty milk bottles by suppliers, but it must be emphasized that many members of the public are guilty of fouling bottles with such things as cement, paraffin, etc. Forty-eight samples of milk were obtained from roundsmen during the course of the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results of these were as follows:

Pasteurised Milk:

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	26
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	26

Sterilised Milk:

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	3
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	3

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised):

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	10
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	10

Tuberculin Tested:

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	9
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	8

Ice-cream Samples:

Forty-eight samples of ice-cream were sent for bacteriological examination during the year and the standard of these remained high. Most of them complied with the Provisional Grade I, but three samples were unsatisfactory. Satisfactory samples were subsequently obtained in respect of the unsatisfactory ones.

Condemnation of unsound food:

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year was: 19 cwt. 82 lbs. 14 ozs.

All condemned food other than meat was disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip under the supervision of the Public Health

Inspectors. Meat condemned at the two slaughterhouses in the district was generally collected by recognised merchants, after staining to prevent misuse.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle</i> <i>excluding</i>	<i>Sheep</i> <i>and</i>				
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs	Horses

Number killed & inspected	172	—	22	340	344	—
---------------------------	-----	---	----	-----	-----	---

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
--------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcases of which some

part or organ was con-

demned

50	—	1	34	60	—
----	---	---	----	----	---

Percentage of the number

inspected affected with

disease other than T.B. or

Cysticerci	29.07%	—	4.55%	10%	17.45%	—
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Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
--------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcases of which some or

organ was condemned ...

1	—	—	—	—	9	—
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Percentage of the number

inspected, affected with

Tuberculosis	0.58%	—	—	—	2.62%	—
----------------------	-------	---	---	---	-------	---

Cysticercosis:

Carcases of which some

part or organ was con-

demned

—	—	—	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcases submitted to

treatment by refrigeration.

Generalised and totally

condemned

—	—	—	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Slaughterhouses:

Two small licensed slaughterhouses remain in the district and in both cases supplies are for their own shops only. The report required to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food regarding slaughterhouse facilities in the district was in the course of preparation at the end of the year 1959. Full details of this report will be contained in the Annual Report for 1960.

Once again 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Urban District was carried out. The Licencees of both slaughterhouses co-operated very readily to this end. The incidence of Tuberculosis in the animals slaughtered was extremely low, and most of the meat condemned was in respect of diseases of a less serious nature.

Water Sampling:

Regular bi-monthly samples of main water supplies in the district

were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. Regular samples were also submitted for full chemical analysis. The results in all cases were satisfactory.

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	10
Number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	10

Swimming Baths:

During the course of the long hot summer continual supervision was exercised over the various swimming baths in the area and regular samples were taken. *Number of samples taken Number of samples satisfactory*

Brentwood U.D.C. Public Swimming

Bath	10	10
Brentwood Boys' School	3	3
Brentwood Girls' County High School	3	3
Ursuline High School for Girls	3	3

The Council's swimming bath is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor and I am indebted to his Department for their excellent co-operation which was always readily given.

Moveable Dwellings:

484 visits to caravan sites were made during the course of the year. 365 of these were again necessary to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Act in regard to the unlicensed site mentioned in the Annual Report for 1958. A few new licenses were granted to use individual sites and the condition of all these cases remained reasonably satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 RAT AND MICE INFESTATION

The number of visits under this heading was greatly increased during the course of the year as a result of the Council's decision to give a free service for rat destruction wherever possible. It is felt that this service is greatly appreciated by the public. It is interesting to note that a considerable number of complaints arose as a result of disturbance due to new building operations. No infestation of any considerable size was noted. The Council's sewers in the district were treated twice during the course of the year and there was good evidence that the treatment was effective.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The disposal of the Urban District Council's refuse was again carried out by controlled tipping at the site commenced during 1958 in Coxtie Green Road, Brentwood.

Whilst minor difficulties continue to be experienced in relation to the general running of the tip, no major difficulties were experienced and results have continued to be reasonably satisfactory to the end of 1959. Some four or five acres had been utilised and as soon as the top surface is covered over with the necessary subsoil this should commence its return to agricultural use. Over 30 acres of land remain for tipping in future years.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(1) Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of:		Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	10	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	125	157	8
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—
Total:		139	167	8 0

(2) Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector</i>
	(2)	(3)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	8	2
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) —	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) —	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Insufficient ...	3	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—
Total:	17	9
	—	3
	—	—

		Outwork		Section 111 No. of cases of default in secutions for instances of work in failure to supply lists to the Council unwholesome premisses			Section 110 No. of out-workers in August list req. by Sect. 110 (1) (c)			Nature of Work	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Wearing apparel	Making etc.,										
Cleaning & Washing		17									
Toys		1									
Lampshades		1									
Onion Peeling		2									
Total:		21									

HOUSING

Housing problems continue to occupy a good deal of departmental time and some 1,600 visits were made during the course of the year under the Public Health and Housing Acts. This figure includes inspections re Improvement Grants and supervision of the work in progress.

Progress with the demolition or closure of individual unfit houses was unfortunately very slow owing to the difficulty of rehousing tenants in suitable Council house accommodation but it is felt that the general trend is to improve, where possible, numbers of older houses in the district. This work has been carried out by the serving of formal and informal Notices under the Housing Acts and the Public Health Act, and much time has also been spent in dealing with numerous applications for improvement grants and standard grants. This work remains under the control of the Public Health Department and good results continue to be achieved. It is found, however, that very careful supervision of the work is necessary.

In the older parts of the district the great need is still the provision of modern amenities such as bathrooms, hot and cold water and indoor sanitation. Existing legislation may well be improved in future years to make the provision of such facilities mandatory. Until such time as this comes about, every effort must be made to maintain as many useful housing units amongst the older houses as possible.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere:

(a) Houses demolished during year:

In clearance areas	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Not in clearance areas (As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	15

(b) Unfit Houses closed during year:

Under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	6
Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:

(a) After informal action by Local Authority	...	53
(b) After formal notice under:		
(i) Public Health Acts	...	6
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	...	15

(d) Unfit houses in temporary use ...

Nil

(e) Purchase of houses by agreement ...

Nil